

Janicki claims deal in Mensik escape

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BY GREGG RAMSHAW

SANITARY District Trustee Valentine Janicki says he will ask United States Atty. Gen. John Mitchell for a complete investigation into the escape of C. Oran Mensik from a federal prison farm in Allenwood, Pa.

Janicki and his sister lost \$135,000 invested in shares in the bankrupt City Savings Association, formerly at 1656 W. Chicago Av., which Mensik headed.

About 16,000 depositors lost more than \$30 million when the institution closed in 1964 as a result of Mensik's fraudulent manipulations.

MENSIK WAS serving a 10-year sentence for mail fraud and bond jumping. He walked away from the minimum security farm Monday, but the escape was not revealed until yesterday.

"He was the greatest con artist that ever lived," Janicki said last night. "If he was able to wheel and deal \$30 million out of 16,000 depositors, he must have been able to wheel and deal his way out of prison."

"I want to be part of the investigating committee to see how that conniver, that cheat, got out. He must have paid someone off. I hope he doesn't come to Chicago; his life won't be worth a plugged

nickel out here," Janicki added.

Mensik was never tried for the City Savings frauds, altho U. S. District Judge William J. Campbell asserted Mensik and others were guilty of fraudulent real estate deals.

THE FORMER financier was convicted and sentenced to five years on mail fraud charges brought against him in Maryland. While free on bond after that conviction, Mensik jumped bond and fled to Europe.

He was recaptured in an attempt to make a secret visit to the United States in 1969 and was sentenced to an additional five years for bond jumping.

Mensik was sent to the Lewisburg [Pa.] Federal Prison where he served until six months ago. He was then transferred to the minimum security prison farm despite

previous efforts to avoid imprisonment.

THE PRISON farm has no fences or security guards. It is believed Mensik walked off the farm and hitchhiked a ride.

Mensik is the subject of a nationwide search, altho FBI officials admit his trail is cold.